

The international community must also play a productive—and more aggressive—role. The United Nations must address this issue immediately and must make the necessary decisions and actions to allow for every option and tool for establishing stability in Somalia to be pursued. It is clear that both regional and international efforts must be strengthened and coordinated more effectively, and we must heed the calls of international humanitarian organizations on the ground for additional humanitarian assistance to increasingly vulnerable populations there.

Somalia's neighbors must be cautious and patient as conditions within Somalia continue to change. Somalia's neighbors must play a supportive role to the efforts of the TFG, the United Nations, and the African Union to secure peace. Hasty, aggressive, or meddling actions could undermine or further complicate efforts to find a political solution to the stand-off between the TFG and Islamic Courts Union. All international actions relating to Somalia must be coordinated, and activities that may undermine current efforts there must not be tolerated.

Finally, the U.S. Government must take instability in Somalia seriously. Just last week, Ambassador Hank Crumpton, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, testified in front of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and said that the State Department has only one full-time Foreign Service officer, based in Nairobi, working on Somalia-related issues. The administration has failed to create a strategy for Somalia and is only now, after years and years of instability and chaos throughout the country, engaging in international efforts to address some of the problems Somalia faces. The administration must create one sound policy framework to support stabilizing and rebuilding Somalia within which all U.S. Government activities can be coordinated. It must also appoint a senior-level coordinator to manage the multifaceted challenges that conditions in Somalia pose to both the United States and the international community.

Past efforts have been insufficient. It is past time to take the deteriorating conditions within Somalia seriously, and we must do so immediately. Recent developments in Somalia threaten to destabilize the entire region and plunge Somalia further in to despair. We can help prevent this if we act now.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of religious freedom. The freedom to believe and worship how one chooses is essential. However, as we strive for greater religious freedom and tolerance throughout the world, we have witnessed activist judges chip away at our own religious freedoms. These activist judges

have worked diligently to restrict our rights to express our religious beliefs under the guise of separation of church and state.

Many of the court decisions that have broadened Americans' first amendment right to free speech, overreach. In an effort to promote tolerance, religious expression is in fact, being censored.

Our Founding Fathers proclaimed liberty to be an unalienable right bestowed by our Creator—"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness . . ." Yet unelected, activist judges are rewriting history. They have decided that, in fact, the Founding Fathers did not intend for there to be freedom of religious expression but, rather, freedom from religious expression.

Thirty years of public opinion polls have shown that more than 75 percent of Americans support a constitutional amendment to protect voluntary school prayer. However, the Supreme Court has said such an act violates the constitutional separation of church and state—again, another act that forces freedom from religious expression rather than freedom of religious expression.

It is not simply this decision but a growing and disturbing trend in our Federal courts to deny the rights of our States and our citizens to acknowledge God openly and freely. In fact, reciting the words "one Nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance has been ruled unconstitutional as has displaying the Ten Commandments in a State building in my home State of Alabama. These tortured legal decisions distort our Constitution, our Nation's history and its tradition in an effort to secularize our system of government and divest morality from our rule of law.

We simply cannot divest God from our country. Our country has no foundation without a basic recognition that God invests us at birth with basic individual rights that we all enjoy as Americans. In fact, our Government and our laws are based on Judeo-Christian values and a recognition of God as our Creator.

Our motto is "In God We Trust." It is enshrined on our currency.

Our national anthem recognizes our motto as "In God is Our Trust."

As Federal officials, each of us has taken an oath of office. The President takes a similar one. State and local officials and our military personnel all swear a similar oath. Jurors and witnesses in our State and Federal courts take an oath as do witnesses before Congress. We all swear to uphold the Constitution or tell the truth, "so help me God."

Our courts, including the Supreme Court, recognize God in their official proceedings, both the House and Senate acknowledge God through an open-

ing prayer every morning. Our public buildings and monuments honor this heritage through various depictions of the basic moral foundations of our laws and system of government.

My point is that you simply cannot divest God from our country. Despite the actions of these activist judges, our country has no foundation without a basic recognition that God invests us at birth with basic individual rights—such as the blessings of liberty—that we all enjoy as Americans.

Again, I believe that the courts have exceeded their power. They have overreached. To that end, I have introduced the Constitution Restoration Act. This legislation recognizes the rights of the States and the people as embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—9th and 10th amendments—to acknowledge God.

The Constitution Restoration Act goes to the very foundation of our country and the legitimacy of our system of government. Thomas Jefferson in his first inaugural address said that "The wisdom of our sages and the blood of our heroes have been devoted to [the] attainment" of our liberty and form of government.

If we are to maintain our form of government, we must ensure that activist judges are not permitted to take away our religious liberties. The very foundation of our government cannot and should not be expunged from public view—an unelected Federal judiciary should not be allowed to outlaw all public acknowledgments of God. We must protect our very basic freedom of religious expression.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to work with me to protect this basic freedom by supporting the Constitution Restoration Act.

DRY EYE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I rise to call attention to an important but often overlooked chronic illness: dry eyes. The Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation and National Women's Health Resource Center have declared July Dry Eye Awareness Month.

Every year, chronic dry eye syndrome affects nearly 10 million Americans of all ages; many sufferers will go undiagnosed. Without tears, good vision is impossible. Dry eye syndrome can cause devastating symptoms, including constant pain, an inability to focus, and, in severe cases, serious visual impairment. It can significantly affect a person's quality of life, increasing the risk of problems with reading, professional work, computer use, and night driving.

Americans suffering with dry eye syndrome either do not produce enough tears, or have poor quality tears and/or excessive tear evaporation. Either problem causes their eyes to sting and burn, feel scratchy, become irritated, or excessively tear. Most people with

dry eye find the condition to be an uncomfortable nuisance, with many characteristics of a "chronic pain" type of syndrome.

One study showed that dry eye patients experienced an average of 184 days of reduced productivity in a year. Although dry eye syndrome cannot be cured, there are a variety of available treatments. However many people with dry eye continue to suffer needlessly because they are unaware of their options. Both dry eye and Sjögren's seriously endanger women's health.

Sjögren's syndrome is a painful and debilitating autoimmune disease which causes the immune system to attack its own lubricating glands, such as tear and salivary glands. Sjögren's is one of the most prevalent autoimmune disorders, and although it affects people of all ages, 9 out of 10 patients are women, and the average age of onset is late forties. The hallmark symptoms are dry eyes and dry mouth, but Sjögren's may also cause dryness of other organs, affecting the kidneys, GI tract, blood vessels, lungs, liver, pancreas, and the central nervous system. Patients with Sjögren's syndrome are also 40 times more likely to develop lymphoma.

Marking July as Dry Eye Awareness Month will bring more attention to this widespread and potentially debilitating condition. I thank the Minnesota members of the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation and the National Women's Health Resource Center for bringing this issue to my attention and thank them for their efforts to educate the public about this serious health concern.

THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the Burlington, VT, Boys and Girls Club prepares to begin an ambitious capital fundraising campaign this summer, I am proud to give my strong support to this important organization. As a long-time supporter of this organization in Vermont and across the country, I wish them the best of success in their efforts, and I commend them for striving to continually improve their organization and Vermont's communities.

Through this campaign, the Burlington Boys and Girls Club plans to strengthen its resources with the addition of high-speed Internet access at the club, as well as a multimedia center where members can become proficient in current technology. This is a critical component of success for young people in our increasingly technological society. The club will also reinforce its dedication to creativity through the addition of a visual and performing arts space where members will be able to pursue their artistic expression. These are just a few of the admirable goals set out for this campaign, and I am confident they will be achieved.

The Boys and Girls Clubs around the country are a leading example of how

the support and care of our young people benefits American society, one boy and one girl at a time. The Boys and Girls Clubs have proven that when we show our young people that we care about them and that we care about their futures, they respond with positive and constructive actions in their communities.

We also know the Boys and Girls Clubs provide a healthy alternative for many young people and oftentimes prevent them from being drawn into gangs, drug abuse, and other crime. The clubs instill leadership qualities, respect, and thoughtfulness in participants through programs that include art, athletics, help with schoolwork, technology, life skills, training in resistance to drugs and alcohol, and community service. In providing these valuable programs during critical development periods when young people are most vulnerable, the Boys and Girls Clubs fill a void and reduce the opportunity to succumb to negative influences. The Boys and Girls Clubs represent the best of what communities can do to improve the lives of their young people.

I know firsthand how well Boys and Girls Clubs work and what topnotch organizations they are. When I was a prosecutor in Vermont, I was convinced of the great need for Boys and Girls Clubs because we rarely encountered children from these kinds of programs. In fact, after I became a U.S. Senator, a police chief was such a big fan that he asked me to help fund a Boys and Girls Club in his district rather than helping him pay for a couple more police officers.

Over the years, I have worked with other members of the Senate to make sure the Boys and Girls Clubs around the country have the funding necessary to carry out their mission. Since 1998, we have worked to steadily increase Federal funding for the Boys and Girls clubs each year. This year, as the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator SPECTER and I have recommended \$80 million in funding to help keep this organization a strong and vital part of their communities, from coast to coast. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I look forward to seeing that these funds are appropriated for this important work.

Represented in all 50 States, the 3,700 branches of the Boys and Girls Club reach more than 4.4 million young people. The Boys and Girls Club of Burlington alone serves more than 1,400 young people each year. Through continued funding, Boys and Girls Clubs around the country will serve 6 million young people by January of 2007. The growth of these clubs across our country has been a true success story, and I am proud to work to ensure the Federal Government's continued support.

As the Burlington Boys and Girls Club kicks off its capital campaign, I commend all of Vermont's Boys and Girls Clubs, along with all of the other

clubs across our Nation, for the important work they do to help our young citizens become exceptional adults.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENEDICT, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 3, the residents of Benedict will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Benedict was founded in 1906 as a stop on the Soo Line Railroad. The name of the town was derived from the Order of St. Benedict, the order to which most of the Catholic priests in the area belonged.

Today, Benedict remains a small, pleasant agricultural town. The farmers in the area farm mostly wheat, canola, and sunflowers, and the town contains the prosperous McLean Elevator, which draws customers from the surrounding area. The Concordia Lutheran Church continues to be the center of town life.

To celebrate their centennial, the people of Benedict have planned a number of events, including a lawnmower pull, children's games, and a parade.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Benedict, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Benedict and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Benedict that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Benedict has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLNA, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 6 to 8, the residents of Tolna will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Tolna's history began in May 1906, when D.B. Tallman founded the town as a stopping point for trains on the Great Northern Railroad. Tallman's daughter could not pronounce the name "Tallman," so they named the town "Tolna" after the way she pronounced it. The town grew quickly and was settled mostly by German and Norwegian immigrants, many of whose descendants live in Tolna today.

Tolna remains an active and involved community. The Tolna Summer Rec Program sponsors a large number of sports teams for area youth and sports events involving the entire town. The